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Telegraphic Address: Press, Telephone No. 12.

P.O. Box 20.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

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PUBLIC AUCTION

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED  
WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently fitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and are well able to compete in quality with the best English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

COAST PORT ORDERS.  
Whenever practicable are despatched by steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For Coast Ports, Waters are required, and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Postages and Expenses when received in good order.

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Our Registered Telegraphic Address is  
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."  
And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock.

PURE AERATED WATER.  
SODA WATER.  
LEMONADE.  
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SARASAPILLA WATER.  
TONIC WATER.GINGER ALE.  
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No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong.  
The Shanghai Dispensary, 24 Nanking Road, Shanghai.

Botica Inglesa, 14, Paseo, Manila.

The Canton Dispensary, Canton.

The Hongkong Dispensary, Tsimshau.

London Office, 3, Banqueting Buildings, E.C.

Hongkong, 7th May, 1894.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

One copy of the Hongkong Daily Press should be addressed to "A. S. Watson &amp; Co., Limited."

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address to the management, addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one sheet of paper.

No anonymous signed communication that have appeared in other papers first will be inserted.

For extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent by mail, and on the day of publication. After that hour, the supply is limited. Only Supply for Cash.

Telegraphic Address, Press, P. O. Box 20. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.  
HONGKONG, MAY 9TH, 1894.

THAT most remote but politically important highland, where three empires meet, is still a point of interest to those who watch the unfolding of the Central Asian problem. Reuter informed us rather prematurely, some time ago, that the Pamir question had been settled by a remarkable concession from China to Russia of all claim to the debatable territory, but this statement was soon afterwards fully contradicted, and we were left to imagine that the negotiations on the subject would drag on, in the leisurely Oriental fashion, for an indefinite period. Reuter, however, has again favoured us with further information, this time, it may be hoped, of a more reliable description. On the 27th ult. the following message was cableed out:—"The Chinese Minister has come to an arrangement with Russia regarding the Pamir, based on 'mutual concessions.' This was supplemented, on the 30th ult., by the announcement:—"The negotiations between Russia and China, with regard to the Pamir, provide for large concessions by the former and an undertaking not to press its claims into the disputed territory until a final treaty has been concluded." From these intimations it does not look as though China intended to concede much. China may pay indemnities, but she will not cede territory unless as the result of actual defeat after a war. At least that is the conclusion that all experience of her relations with foreign countries justifies. It is a tradition in China that no sovereign of the failing dynasty must part with any portion of Chinese territory, and it was in fulfilment of this policy that Ch'ien Hsueh-tung, the last Emperor, fled to the West, and was repudiated and another negotiated with her which provided for the retrocession of Kuldja. It is therefore most unlikely that China will cede an inch of ground in the Pamir when she was ready to fight, if necessary, for the recovery of a tract of land in Turkestan after the subjugation of Yarkand Bao in Kashgar.

Commercially and economically the Pamir region is of very little value. The Pamirs have been designated the heart of Asia, the geographical knot whence the mountainous network towards India, China, and Turkestan. The Chinese call the heights approached from the East, the Tsung-lung, or Omin Mountains, while the people of Badakhshan, approaching from the west, term them Bam-du-niab, or "the roof of the world." The plateau of the Pamir is nearly surrounded by a horseshoe of mountain ranges with the open end westward, bounded north and south, respectively, by the Tien Shan and Hsiao Kuan mountains, and on the west and east by Afghanistan and Chinese Turkestan. Its dimensions are said to be 200 miles from north to south and 170 miles from west to east, with an area of some 30,000 square miles. This plateau is about 12,000 to 14,000 feet above sea level, and the surrounding mountains do not rise more than 8,000 to 4,000 feet above the valleys, so

that the passes are relatively low and easily accessible. The roads, too, are numerous, and explorers to be governed, very practicable. There are several rivers flowing through the plateau and a number of beautiful lakes. The largest, Great Kuan-hu, is considered a truly noble panacea of snow and minerals. The climate is extremely severe, and the air highly rarefied. The Pamirs are practically uninhabited and uninhabitable during the winter, and in summer they are chiefly frequented by nomads, who can obtain there good pasture for their flocks. There may be mineral resources, but these have never been exploited, and are not likely to be at present, as they could only be worked for a short time in the summer.

The districts of Khamtang and Daray belong to Kokand, and are therefore under Russian protection; the district of Wakhan belongs undisputedly to Afghanistan, and those of Roshan and Shighan are also claimed by the Amirs, whilst the district of Suvak is Chinese territory. The Tung Pass, 12,760 feet above sea level, and distant some 30 miles from Kashgar, is claimed by the Chinese, who have erected a small pyramid of stones at the top to indicate their boundary. They have also established a fort at Ulugch, which is garrisoned by some 200 men. About ninety miles from Tung Pass the Russians have an outpost and fort called Narin, so named from the river on which it is situated. This fort, according to Dr. Lansdell, consists of a low walled enclosure, a dim-rampart, a ditch and a barracks. It is garrisoned by 100 infantry, 50 cavalry, and a few artillery. Outside the fort, there is a small village in which some thirty traders reside. On the reconquest of Tsimshau by the Chinese, Mr. D'Alzon, who was in the country at the time, is said to have presented the Chinese Governor to send a copy of his signatures has been forwarded to us in a formal and handsomely bound book. Amongst the signatures we notice those of the Committee for Tsimshau, Shian, and Kao, and a few Chinese officials. The Memorial was to be forwarded to the various governments of the world by the Hon. Walter G. Gresham, Secretary of State.

All the river steamers arriving at Shanghai bear news of the magnitude of the Manchurian rebellion, which arrived the 3rd inst., report that the rebels had 27,000 men in many boats at a place 250 miles from Kashgar, and that at the time of their departure (500) a camp was to be seen on the river. The sights at Kashgar are described as appalling, as despite the strenuous efforts of the native benevolent societies to rescue all floating boats, the crowds continue to come down past the port in large numbers.

We are indebted to the Spanish Consul for a copy of the following telegram dispatched from Manila at 2:05 p.m. yesterday:—"The existence of the rebellion in the E. of Turkestan is confirmed. There are indications of another to the south, but particulars are wanting."

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